

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, i.e., by withdrawing claims 55-102 from prosecution of this application. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1- 54. (Canceled)

55. (Withdrawn) A method of making a prosthesis comprising the steps of: preparing a paste comprising an extractable filler and a graft material solution; rolling a desired thickness of the paste onto a mandrel, wherein the mandrel has an outside diameter about equal to a desired inside diameter of the vascular graft prosthesis; precipitating graft material from the graft material solution; and extracting the filler from the graft material.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the graft material is precipitated from the graft material solution and the filler is extracted from the graft material simultaneously.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the outside diameter of the mandrel is in a range of 1-20 mm.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the outside diameter of the mandrel is in a range of 2-6 mm.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the thickness of the paste is in a range of 0.1-5 mm.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the thickness of the paste is in a range of 0.4-1.5 mm.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the filler comprises particles having diameters in a range of 10-300 μm .

62. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the filler comprises particles having diameters in a range of 40-110 μm .

63. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the filler comprises polymeric beads.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the graft material comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the graft material comprises a polyurethane.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55 wherein the paste further comprises reinforcing fibers.

67. (Withdrawn) A biosynthetic heart valve made according to the method of Claim 55.

68. (Withdrawn) A sewing ring made according to the method of Claim 55.

69. (Withdrawn) A stent made according to the method of Claim 55.

70. (Withdrawn) A vascular graft prosthesis made according to the method of Claim 55.

71. (Withdrawn) A method of making a prosthesis comprising the steps of: preparing a paste comprising an extractable filler and a graft material solution; extruding the paste through an annular orifice; precipitating graft material from the graft material solution; and extracting the filler from the graft material.

72. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the graft material is precipitated from the graft material solution and the beads are extracted from the graft material simultaneously.

73. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the annular orifice has an outer diameter about equal to a desired outer diameter of the vascular graft prosthesis, and the outer diameter of the annular orifice is in a range of 1.1-25 mm.

74. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the annular orifice has an outer diameter about equal to a desired outer diameter of the vascular graft prosthesis, and the outer diameter of the annular orifice is in a range of 2.1-11 mm.

75. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the annular orifice has an inner diameter about equal to a desired inner diameter of the vascular graft prosthesis, and the inner diameter of the annular orifice is in a range of 1-20 mm.

76. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the annular orifice has an inner diameter about equal to a desired inner diameter of the vascular graft prosthesis, and the inner diameter of the annular orifice is in a range of 2-6 mm.

77. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the filler comprises particles having diameters in a range of 10-300 μm .

78. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the filler comprises particles having diameters in a range of 40-110 μm .

79. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the filler comprises polymeric beads.

80. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the graft material comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

81. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the graft material comprises a polyurethane.

82. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 71 wherein the paste further comprises reinforcing fibers.

83. (Withdrawn) A biosynthetic heart valve made according to the method of Claim 71.

84. (Withdrawn) A sewing ring made according to the method of Claim 71.

85. (Withdrawn) A stent made according to the method of Claim 71.

86. (Withdrawn) A vascular graft prosthesis made according to the method of Claim 71.

87. (Withdrawn) A method of making a prosthesis comprising the steps of:
Preparing a paste comprising an extractable filler and a graft material solution;
Depositing the paste in consecutive layers onto a mandrel, wherein the mandrel has an outside diameter about equal to a desired inside diameter of the vascular graft prosthesis;
Precipitating graft material from the graft material solution; and
Extracting the filler from the graft material.

88. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the graft material is precipitated from the graft material solution and the filler is extracted from the graft material simultaneously.

89. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the outside diameter of the mandrel is in a range of 1-20 mm.

90. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the outside diameter of the mandrel is in a range of 2-6 mm.

91. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the consecutive layers of the paste have a combined thickness in a range of 0.1-5 mm.

92. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the consecutive layers of the paste have a combined thickness in a range of 0.4-1.5 mm.

93. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the filler comprises particles having a diameter in a range of 10-300 μm .

94. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the filler comprises particles having a diameter in a range of 40-110 μm .

95. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the filler comprises polymeric beads.

96. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the graft material is a thermoplastic elastomer.

97. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the graft material is a polyurethane.

98. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 87 wherein the paste further comprises reinforcing fibers.

99. (Withdrawn) A biosynthetic heart valve made according to the method of Claim 87.

100. (Withdrawn) A sewing ring made according to the method of Claim 87.

101. (Withdrawn) A stent made according to the method of Claim 87.

102. (Withdrawn) A vascular graft prosthesis made according to the method of Claim 87.

103. (Original) A method of making a prosthesis comprising the steps of:
extruding a thermoplastic elastomer with the aid of a blowing agent, to produce a foamed graft; and
annealing and reticulating the foamed graft to effect an open-cell structure.

104. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the blowing agent comprises a physical blowing agent.

105. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the blowing agent comprises a chemical blowing agent.

106. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the blowing agent comprises physical and chemical blowing agents.

107. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises a polyurethane.

108. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer further comprises reinforcing fibers.

109. (Original) A biosynthetic heart valve made according to the method of Claim 103.

110. (Original) A sewing ring made according to the method of Claim 103.

111. (Original) A stent made according to the method of Claim 103.

112. (Original) A vascular graft prosthesis made according to the method of Claim 103.